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January 6, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

IBHE PROPOSES BUDGET INCREASE FOR EIU

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University could receive a \$3.5 million or 5.7 percent overall budget increase next fiscal year -- the largest percentage increase of all Illinois public universities, according to Illinois Board of Higher Education staff recommendations to be voted on at Tuesday's IBHE meeting in Chicago.

The proposed increase would put Eastern's Fiscal Year 1998 appropriated funds operating budget at \$64.7 million (includes general and income funds), up from the current year's appropriated funds budget of \$61.2 million.

Eastern is marked for the highest percentage increase at 5.7 percent, followed by Governors State University at 4.9 percent, Illinois State University at 4.5 percent and Chicago State University at 4.4 percent.

"We are very pleased the IBHE has shown such strong support for Eastern. The recommended budget increase seems to support the belief that Eastern is a successful university that has experienced historical underfunding," said Eastern President David Jorns.

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Eastern will receive these funds only if IBHE recommendations are sustained in the General Assembly and approved by the governor, as has been the case in the past three years, according to Budget Director Kim Furumo.

The IBHE's funding priorities for FY 1998 emphasize repair and renovation and supporting technology infrastructure, Jorns said.

Eastern's recommended increase includes \$349,700 for deferred maintenance and \$500,000 for technology enhancements. Also included are new funds for faculty and staff compensation increases (\$1.4 million or 3 percent average salary increase); adding tenure-track faculty (\$150,000); library materials (\$51,700); utility increases (\$68,800); annual operating expenses for Ninth Street Hall (\$33,600); and funds for Professional Development Schools (\$100,000).

Eastern had recommended an overall 7 percent increase for employee salaries; 3 percent for normal cost-of-living increases and 4 percent for market adjustments.

In addition, \$1.1 million was recommended for academic base support for improvements and additions to Eastern's academic programs, services and other expenses related to improving undergraduate and graduate education as well as to help offset inflationary erosion.

The IBHE's recommended \$64.7 million appropriated funds operating budget for Eastern includes a 3.5 percent tuition increase. Of the total budget, \$22.3

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million comes from the university income fund made up of tuition and fees; \$38.5 million from the state's general revenue fund; and \$3.9 million from the education assistance fund. Eastern had requested a \$67 million appropriated funds operating budget or 9.5 percent increase from the IBHE.

The IBHE's capital budget recommendation includes funds for renovating Booth Library in the amount of \$16.7 million, assuming \$1 million in planning money is funded in FY 1997. The project is ranked seventh on the IBHE's capital projects priority listing. All capital project funding is contingent upon General Assembly action on the bonding authority issue.

Also included in the IBHE's capital budget recommendation is \$1.1 million for capital renewal projects at Eastern, including \$600,000 to work on air conditioning in Coleman and Klehm halls, \$300,000 to replace electrical cables in the campus' electrical distribution system and \$228,200 to extend and upgrade existing steam tunnels. An additional \$735,700 is recommended for technology improvements, such as installing fiber optic cabling, network equipment and multimedia in classrooms.

Eastern made a FY 1998 capital request of \$31.6 million to IBHE, including \$27.9 million in regular capital projects and \$3.7 million in capital renewal projects.